

See the Leaves...



...and the Tree

2013 OPI Assessment & Data Conference
January 9-11 ~ Crowne Plaza ~ Billings, Montana



Distributed by:
Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Meet Your Keynote Speakers

Dr. Stephanie Hirsh – Learning Forward



Dr. Stephanie Hirsh is executive director of Learning Forward, a non-profit education association with more than 12,000 members. Learning Forward is committed to advancing student achievement through more effective professional learning for educators. Prior to her position with Learning Forward, Hirsh served for more than 15 years of district and school-based leadership positions and completed three terms as a school board trustee in the Richardson Independent School District in 2005.

Hirsh advises governors, chief state school officers, legislators and other policy makers regarding all aspects of professional learning. She has been recognized by the Texas Staff Development Council with a Lifetime Achievement Award, by the University of North Texas as a Distinguished Alumnae and by the Texas Association of School Boards as Master Trustee and Honor Board member.

Hirsh presents, publishes and consults on Learning Forward's behalf across North America.

Dr. Michael Russell – Measured Progress



Dr. Michael Russell is the Senior Vice President of strategic development at Measured Progress, Inc. He is trained in educational measurement and has eighteen years of experience conducting leading edge research and development of innovations to assessment. His work has resulted in more than 50 scholarly articles and five books on educational assessment. Areas of specialty for Dr. Russell include computer-based testing, accessibility, technology-enhanced assessment and interoperability standards.

Russell was the 2009 da Vinci Awards® winner for the development of an assessment system that exceeds federal requirements for accessibility.

Dr. Brent C. Ruby – University of Montana



Dr. Brent C. Ruby is a professor of Health and Human Performance (HHP) at the University of Montana. He specializes in applied human physiology and exercise physiology and metabolism. He is currently collaborating on projects with wildland firefighters, the Department of Defense, the Missoula Technology and Development Center, and the United States Forest Service.

Dr. Ruby's research includes carbohydrate metabolism, measurement of energy expenditure and gender differences in substrate utilization during exercise. His extracurricular interests include sculpture, fly fishing, hiking, camping with his family and leading an anti-sloth lifestyle.

Dr. Martin G. Horejsi – University of Montana



Dr. Martin G. Horejsi is an associate professor of Instructional Technology Education at the University of Montana. Horejsi has worked in education for more than 20 years, in classroom instruction, training teachers in technology and teaching at the collegiate level.

In 1997, a \$6.8 million Federal Technology Innovation Challenge Grant in the Blackfoot school district in Blackfoot, Idaho, gave Dr. Horejsi the opportunity to train teachers in the use of multimedia computing, instructional design and science content specific to Idaho. He directed the development and production of multimedia science components from hundreds of Idaho classroom teachers and designed technology training programs for students in grades 4-12.

In 2011 Dr. Horejsi was elected to the Board of Directors of the Northwest Council of Computers in Education and was highlighted on NASA's Nationwide Website. He speaks at conferences throughout the country.

2013 OPI Assessment and Data Conference Agenda

My Session Schedule

For your convenience, use the table below to plan your conference schedule.

<i>Session Time</i>	<i>Session Title</i>	<i>Session Room</i>
Wednesday: 1:00-4:00		
Thursday: 9:30-10:40		
Thursday: 10:50-12:00		
Thursday: 1:50-3:00		
Thursday: 3:25-4:45		
Friday: 9:30-10:40		
Friday: 10:50-12:00		

Wednesday Pre-Sessions 1:00-4:00 pm

Three Quick Wins with the Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy

Cynthia Green, English Language Arts Curriculum Specialist, Office of Public Instruction

Ballroom

The Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy (MCCS) are causing excitement across the state! In fact, they are uniting content area teachers across all subjects. Educators are taking on the role of learners and building a deep understanding of the MCCS. School districts are aligning curriculum to the MCCS and everyone is talking about the Montana Literacy Plan! Does this sound like your school? If so, join us and share your success stories. If this doesn't quite describe your school, no problem. Join us and take advantage of three quick wins you can immediately take back to your schools. Plus, learn more about the alignment module for Stages 2-3 of the MCCS Stages of Implementation Continuum.

Planning for Spring Green: Using the ACCESS for ELLs Results to Impact Instruction

Jennifer Daniel, WIDA Consortium

Conference Room 1

Participants will learn how to interpret growth patterns to guide both instructional planning at the classroom level and language education program design at the school and district level. Considerations of results will include the individual student, classroom, school, and district levels. In order to prepare for applying their understanding within home school districts, participants will work in small groups to suggest possible uses of data. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs reports and the following WIDA Framework resources will be referenced during the course of the training: ELD Standards, CAN DO Descriptor Name Charts and Differentiation, Parts 1 and 2.

The Power of Assessments to Guide Math Instruction (K-5)

Karma Nelson, Mathematics Educational Consultant

Jean Howard, Mathematics Instructional Coordinator, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 1

Participants will become familiar with the Smarter Balanced released items and scoring rubrics, as well as engage in completing tasks. They will identify the mathematics content and mathematical practices required in the item and discuss appropriate instructional strategies to encourage student proficiency.

The Power of Assessments to Guide Math Instruction (6-12)

Lisa Scott & Pat Baltzley, Mathematics Education Consultants

Skybridge Room 4

Participants will become familiar with the Smarter Balanced released items and scoring rubrics, as well as engage in completing tasks. They will identify the mathematics content and mathematical practices required in the items and discuss appropriate instructional strategies to encourage student proficiency.

Improve Interactivity with Assessments in Infinite Campus

Sara Loewen, AIM Unit Manager, Data Resource Administrator

Stephen Hallman, Infinite Campus Process Consultant

Skybridge Room 3

Participants will learn how to manage national, state and district level assessments. We'll build test data, import student-level assessment data en masse, and align assessments to courses and reports. See first-hand the benefits of extracting assessment data through ad hoc reporting. Participants may bring a laptop for hands-on participation.

ACT Plus Writing Test Administration

Amy Gaskill, ACT Client Services and State Testing

Conference Room 5

This session will cover ACT Test Administration Training and will provide detailed instructions for all steps of the test administration, including initial planning, identification and training of room supervisors and proctors, receipt and check-in of secure materials, secure storage requirements, test day arrangements, documentation of required procedures, recognition of irregularities, accounting for and return of all materials, and plans for makeup testing.

Wednesday Afternoon Break
Sponsored by Measured Progress
3:00-3:25 pm

Thursday Breakfast
7:00-8:00 am
Ballroom

Welcome and Introduction

8:00 – 8:30

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction

Terry Bouck, Superintendent, Billings Public Schools

Keynote: Leveraging Professional Learning to Support New Assessments

Stephanie Hirsh, Executive Director, Learning Forward

8:30 – 9:20

Consider how Learning Forward's vision, definition and standards connect to common core and new assessments. Gain strategies for leveraging professional learning to advance implementation of new assessments. Commit to next actions for supporting educator effectiveness and results for all students.

Thursday Session I
9:30-10:40 am

FEATURED SPEAKER: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Joe Willhoft, Executive Director, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Ballroom

Dr. Willhoft will present updates on current and upcoming consortium activities in preparation for the Spring 2015 implementation of the assessments developed by the consortium. As Executive Director of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, Dr. Willhoft provides leadership for the development of the assessments and collaboration and professional development opportunities for educators in over 24 governing and advisory states.

Text Complexity

Eileen Zombro, Instructional Coach, Bozeman Public Schools

Conference Room 1

In meeting the reading demands of CCR and 21st Century critical reading skills, the CCSS demands the close reading of complex informational and literary text. Selection of a complex text is an integral first step towards ensuring students are involved in a rigorous reading experience. The CCSS utilizes a "staircase of complexity" in which reading material and acquisition grow in both complexity and associated applications. As the text complexity increases, so should classroom reading offerings and instruction align with the "staircase." Text complexity is a three part model inclusive of the qualitative, quantitative, and reader and task components. This session will outline the rationale, define the components, and recommend the next steps for implementation. Participants will have the essential understandings in order to be able to select rigorous complex text to foster the advancement of learning through reading.

CRT & CRT-Alt Materials Especially for First Time Test Administrators and Coordinators

Dan Verdick & Timothy Greenlaw, Measured Progress

Conference Room 5

This presentation is intended to familiarize test coordinators and administrators with the testing materials and the resources that are available to help them administer the CRT and CRT-Alternate. We will discuss shipping and receiving, important dates and contacts, where to access information and documents, show what the materials actually look like, and how to code the answer booklets.

Infinite Campus Ad Hoc Reporting Filter Designer

Sara Loewen, AIM Unit Manager, Office of Public Instruction

Stephen Hallman, Infinite Campus Process Consultant

Skybridge Room 1

Explore the integrated ad hoc reporting tool in Infinite Campus that allows authorized users to export custom reports. Participants will learn how to create static and dynamic lists of students and add functions and logical expressions to filters for optimal sorting. In addition, learn how the ad hoc filters are integrated within the product, as well as how to export into CSV, HTML, PDF and XML.

GEMS (Growth and Enhancement of Montana Students)

Denise Bond, GEMS Business Analyst, Office of Public Instruction

Jamey Erath, Senior IT Project Manager, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 2

GEMS helps Montana districts, schools and teachers make data-driven decisions to improve student learning, as well as facilitate research to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps. GEMS provides access to data and interactive reports on student achievement, graduation rates, district education profiles, and financial information reported by school districts.

Using Cooperative Learning Activities as Formative Assessments

Lynn Kelting-Gibson, Assistant Professor of Classroom Assessment, Montana State University

Skybridge Room 3

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to actively engage in cooperative learning while discovering how it can be used as a formative assessment. Participants will leave with a number of strategies they can use tomorrow in their classrooms. Supplied handouts will help get teachers started using cooperative learning as a tool to formatively assess student progress.

Assessment Transitions, Common Core Standards, Science and Alternate Assessments

Phil Robakiewicz, Measured Progress

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction,

Christina DeWald, Science Instructional Coordinator, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 4

While educators and administrators work on MCCS implementation plans, assessment plans are also in transition as we prepare for the Spring 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessments. Phil Robakiewicz, Judy Snow, and Christina DeWald will present an overview of transitions to new standards and new assessments. The operational and reporting plan for the transition from the CRT standards to the Montana Common Core Standards and SMARTER will be discussed. We will present some data that are currently available on test items that align to MCCS and discuss the appropriate uses of those data. Information on the assessments not included in SMARTER, the Alternate and Science, also will be presented.

Thursday Session II **10:50-12:00 noon**

Close Reading: Preparing Students for Next Generation Assessments

Eileen Zombro & Perri Sherrill, Instructional Coaches, Bozeman Public Schools

Conference Room 1

For students to be college and career ready, instruction across academic disciplines must focus on building skills for accessing complex, grade-appropriate texts. One approach called for in the Common Core Standards is to allow ample time for close and careful reading. This session will examine what close reading is and what it is not, what it looks like when classroom experiences stay deeply connected to texts, what scaffolding and support can be provided so learning from texts is possible for struggling readers, and how speaking and writing based on this type of close reading is used to assess comprehension and reasoning.

MARS(Montana Analysis and Reporting System for the CRT and CRT-Alt)

Dan Verdick, Measured Progress,

Dave Gay, Cascade Public Schools, Lou Anne Gay, Cascade Public Schools

Yvonne Field, Assessment Specialist, Office of Public Instruction

Conference Room 5

How to navigate the Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS) site, access reports and use CRT data in a meaningful way.

Empowering Student Learning Through Technology Integration

Terri Barclay, Early Childhood Curriculum Specialist, Accreditation, Office of Public Instruction

Ballroom

Participants in the session will learn practical strategies for integrating technology into teaching and learning in the classroom. Through the effective use of digital tools, teachers are able to provide students with meaningful lessons that are motivating and engaging.

Protecting Data: Privacy & Confidentiality

Sara Loewen, AIM Unit Manager, Data Resource Administrator
Denise Bond, GEMS Business Analyst, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 1

This session will provide you with the information you need to protect students' education data. Topics covered will include FERPA, HIPPA, and the OPI Student Records Confidentiality Policy.

Branching Out: College and Career Readiness in Montana

Susan Murray, GEMS Business Analyst, and Jamey Ereth, Senior IT Project Manager, OPI

Skybridge Room 2

The Montana Office of Public Instruction has received a \$4 million grant to establish data linkages between K12 and postsecondary education. This project will be ongoing for the next two and a half years and is being completed in partnership with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. Come learn about the grant, its project plan, and timelines. You will also hear about two of the grant's key pieces - successful data transport from schools and districts to the OPI and a Montana standard electronic transcript.

Branching Out with Writing Instruction and Assessment

Dana Haring, Kalispell Public Schools
Bobbie Barrett, Online Writing Consultant

Skybridge Room 3

The Montana Common Core brings new challenges to all classrooms. Writing instruction, especially, will evolve in English and other curricular areas. This sectional will provide a close look at the expectations of the MCCS in the writing strand, providing information and specific resources to help teachers meet those challenges in all classrooms. Part of this session will feature a video of Montana teachers and students using My Access!® technology, a program piloted by Montana educators, as a writing tool for formative assessment. Best practices of writing instruction are highlighted.

CRT What's New and Review: Accommodations and Test Security

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 4

This session will provide an update and review and clarification of procedures, and terms in preparation for training school personnel in administration of the CRT and CRT-Alt.

Lunch in the Ballroom

12:00-1:40 pm

Keynote: No Leaf Unturned: Emerging Advances in Assessment

Mike Russell, Measured Progress

12:50-1:40 pm

The use of technology in assessments affords new opportunities to individualize assessments and assessment environments. Dr. Russell is a leader in applying technology to develop assessments and assessment systems that are highly accessible, interoperable and adaptive.

Thursday Session III

1:50-3:00 pm

FEATURED SPEAKER: Formative Assessment and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Colleen Anderson

Ballroom

Colleen Anderson co-chairs, along with Judy Snow, the Smarter Balanced Formative Assessment Practices and Professional Learning workgroup. She will present information on the upcoming formative assessment projects, the digital library and opportunities for professional development through each state's network of educators.

2012 AYP Summary and Methodology

Scott Furois, Research and Analysis Manager, Office of Public Instruction

Conference Room 1

This presentation will demonstrate to educators the processes and methodology used to determine the 2012 Adequate Yearly Progress results.

PART A: CRT & CRT-Alt Materials

Dan Verdick & Timothy Greenlaw, Measured Progress

1:50-2:20 pm

Conference Room 5

This presentation is intended to refresh and remind experienced test coordinators and administrators with the testing materials and the resources that are available to help them administer the CRT and CRT-Alternate. We will discuss shipping and receiving, important dates and contacts, where to access information and documents, how to code the answer booklets, and show what the materials actually look like.

PART B: Using Data Efficiently and Effectively

Karen Lee, GT & Data Coordinator, Conrad Public Schools

2:25-3:00 pm

Conference Room 5

Most schools are gathering data on students, but without a system for collecting it, the data may not be used effectively to inform instructional decisions. This session will demonstrate a system for gathering, organizing, and analyzing data that will help you see at a glance which students need additional support or extra challenges and will reveal the strengths and weaknesses in the local curriculum. Using Google docs, this data can be shared among staff and progress can be easily tracked throughout the year.

'AIM'formation

Sara Loewen, AIM Unit Manager, Data Resource Administrator

Skybridge Room 1

This session will provide the 'AIM'formation you need regarding entering and verifying your student data in the AIM system related to the Assessment Registration and Program Participation Collections this spring. We'll cover important dates, deadlines, data verification, and other quality assurance steps the OPI performs.

GEMS (Growth and Enhancement of Montana Students)

Denise Bond, GEMS Business Analyst, Office of Public Instruction

Jamey Ereth, Senior IT Project Manager, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 2

GEMS helps Montana districts, schools and teachers make data-driven decisions to improve student learning, as well as facilitates research to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps. GEMS provides access to data and interactive reports on student achievement, graduation rates, district education profiles and financial information reported by school districts.

MCCS Literacy's Hidden Resource – the Content Area Teacher

Colet Bartow, Library-Information Literacy Instructional Coordinator, Office of Public Instruction

Christina DeWald, Science Instructional Coordinator, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 1

In this session, we will present information about the MCCS standards in Literacy in Science, Social Studies/History and Technical Subjects. We will address ways to engage content area teachers in these standards as schools move towards implementation.

ACT Plus Writing Student Reports and Results Landscape

Jo Martell, Senior Consultant, Program Solutions, ACT, Inc.

Skybridge Room 4

In April 2013, all Montana juniors will have the opportunity to take the ACT Plus Writing on a school day in their high schools. The ACT Plus Writing delivers assessment results at both the student and aggregate levels. The data in these reports provide educators the information and tools to assess the college and career readiness of their students, as well as important direction relative to college and career planning. This session will break down the student score report and will examine the aggregate results provided. Learn how to use the results of the ACT Plus Writing to support college and career readiness for your students!

Thursday Afternoon Break - 3:00 – 3:25 pm
Sponsored by Infinite Campus & Measured Progress

Thursday Session IV
3:25-4:45

Methods of Analyzing Testing Data and Explaining Your Data

Eric Meredith, Education Data Analyst, Office of Public Instruction

Scott Furois, Research and Analysis Manager, Office of Public Instruction

Conference Room 1

A review of the 2011-2012 CRT and ELP testing results and statistical methods of analyzing the results: Data will include information taken from the Infinite Campus system to compare within the results of the CRT and ELP tests. Trends within the data will be discussed including trends over time using previous years' tests. Explaining Your Data is an introduction to data presentation tools (such as pivot tables and charts) in Excel and some tips to improve the clarity of the charts and tables produced with this data.

CRT-Alt Administration: Individualizing Materials

Mandi Crable, Billings Public Schools

Timothy Greenlaw, Measured Progress

Conference Room 5

This session will focus on administration procedures for the CRT-Alternate Assessment. A complete review of how CRT-Alternate test materials are received, distributed and used during test administration will be discussed. The session will also provide participants with important dates and deadlines, as well as information on how to label and return materials.

Writing and the ACT Plus Writing

Kate Cordes & Errin Schmitz, Billings Public Schools

Skybridge Room 1

Preparing students and teachers for the ACT+Writing opportunity in April, this session will focus on what the ACT Writing test offers, the rubric used, and how to score papers.

Math Instruction, Assessment and the Common Core in Middle School: All Pieces of the Whole

Lisa Scott, Mathematics Education Consultant

Jean Howard, Mathematics Instructional Coordinator, OPI

Ballroom

Participants will increase their understanding of the shifts in math instruction for middle school students through the lens of assessment.

Learning is the Constant & Time is the Variable: Standards-Based Assessment in the Performance-Based Classroom

Cale VanVelkinburgh, Secondary English Teacher, Bridger Alternative Program

Skybridge Room 2

We don't live in a D-minus society, so why is a D-minus acceptable in the classroom? Imagine a classroom where students advance not by age - but rather as each student demonstrates authentic proficiency towards a given set of learning goals. Using the Common Core Standards, appropriate and achievable expectations, and a unique approach to student-centered learning, the Bridger Alternative Program in Bozeman has begun implementation of a true performance-based education model. Two teachers and the program's principal will present the premise behind the model, the research that supports the philosophy, and how assessment plays a key role in the program. The performance-based model used in Bridger Alternative's classrooms draws extensively upon the ideas and research presented by Robert Marzano and Richard Delorenzo. This will include plenty of discussion time following the initial presentation.

Access to the Common Core Standards for ALL Students

Gail McGregor, Research Professor, University of Montana

Chris Bilant, Kalispell Public Schools

Roger Holt, PLUK

Skybridge Room 3

Participants in this session will be introduced to issues that relate to the performance of students with disabilities in the standards-based curriculum and on the statewide assessment. The concept of access to the general education curriculum, as introduced in the federal special education law, will provide a launching point for a discussion of the context, strategies and supports that enable students with disabilities to participate in the general education curriculum. The relationship between these practices and the accommodations necessary for students to demonstrate their learning on the statewide assessment will be discussed.

CRT What's New and Review, Accommodations and Test Security

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 4

This session will provide an update and review of procedures, terms, and clarifications in preparation for training school personnel in administration of the CRT and CRT-Alt.

Friday Breakfast

7:00-8:00 am

Ballroom

Welcome and Introduction

8:00 – 8:30 am

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction

Sue Mohr, Administrator Measurement and Accountability Division, Office of Public Instruction

Keynote: Visualizing Kansas in the Land of Oz: Turning Data into Knowledge into Action

Martin Horejsi, Associate Professor of Instructional Technology Education &

Brent Ruby, Director, Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism, University of Montana

8:30-9:20 am

The journey from question to answer, or from need to solution is rarely a straight line. In fact, often the perspective necessary to solve the problem (or even ask the right question for that matter) demands innovative thinking. This presentation is the journey from question to answer and then from answer to application, all within the context of delivering the information to the point it can do the most good, in a form that ideally would be a \$2.99 iPad App.

Friday Session I

9:30-10:40 am

FEATURED SPEAKER: Getting Ready for Smarter Balanced Assessments – Smarter Technology Readiness Tool

Colet Bartow, Library-Information Literacy Instructional Coordinator

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction

Roger Webber-Dereszynski, Director of Assessment, Billings Public Schools

Ballroom

Participants will learn about the Technology Readiness Tool and how to use this resource to inventory technology and chart progress toward being ready for the Smarter Balanced Assessments in 2014-15.

Past, Present and Future of NAEP

Ashley McGrath, NAEP State Coordinator

Conference Room 1

This presentation will explain the past, present, and future of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); it will provide audience members with an overview of NAEP, how NAEP affects Montana schools, and how NAEP can aide teachers in the classroom. Another emphasis will be exploring the NAEP Questions Tool (NQT) for teachers and a glimpse of NAEP's possible future with a changing educational background. Audience members should leave this presentation with a more comprehensive understanding of what NAEP is and what NAEP can do for schools.

Instructional Coaching/ Embedded Professional Development

Robin Miller & Kathy Close, Instructional Coaches, Bozeman Public Schools

Conference Room 5

Instructional Coaching Model: "Instructional coaches are partners in the change process. They work one-on-one with teachers to make it easier to adopt the instructional methods that can make a difference to students' success. Instructional coaches are team members who help pull together and lead the right combination of school staff to reach common goals." - Jim Knought. Studies by the Institute of Educational Sciences in 2007 have shown that the professional Development Model using Instructional Coaches have shown an average of a 21 percentile increase in student achievement for teachers who have committed to working with an instructional coach. Yoon et. All. 2007, pg. i.

Infinite Campus Tools for Ad Hoc Reporting & Data Analysis

Sara Loewen, AIM Unit Manager, Data Resource Administrator

Stephen Hallman, Infinite Campus Process Consultant

Skybridge Room 1

Learn step-by-step how to build pivot tables using the integrated data within Infinite Campus. Participants will visualize data in a grid, bar, pie or line chart format. We'll view the "big picture" as well as "drill-down" for student-specific data.

Teaching the Writer not the Writing: Constructing and Using a CCSS Writing Continuum, K-5

Kim Quigley & Kelly McNeil, Instructional Coaches, Bozeman Public Schools

Skybridge Room 2

How do you craft a writing continuum based on the CCSS? How do you use the continuum to inform instruction? How do you use the continuum for 1-1 and small group conferencing in the classroom? How do you teach and assess THREE writing text types using the ELA CCSS writing standards? WHAT TO DO? Come to "Teaching the Writer not the Writing" and learn how to craft a usable formative assessment continuum to guide student conferencing in your classroom.

Mastery Connect: A Blending of 3 Great Concepts: PLCs + Common Core Assessments + Web 2.0 Collaborative Tool

Becky Berg, K-6 Math PD Facilitator and Digital Resource Developer, Billings Public Schools

Skybridge Room 3

MasteryConnect is an online tool through which teachers collaboratively develop assessments that are aligned to CCSS. Rick DuFour has been a proud supporter of this tool that encourages Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and common assessments. Participants will explore MasteryConnect and learn how to download, organize, and edit CCSS aligned assessments. Participants will have access to a digital Master Connect PD Module and resources that will allow them to easily share and utilize this resource with their colleagues.

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment

Eric Meredith, Education Data Analyst, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 4

A presentation detailing the test results from the ACCESS LEP test. The analysis includes comparisons to the CRT test scores and to the previous ELP test along with trends seen in the ACCESS LEP test. Discussion will include use and interpretation of the ACCESS test results.

Friday Session II

10:50-12:00 noon

Identifying, Assessing and Exiting Montana's ELL's

Yvonne Field, Assessment Specialist, Office of Public Instruction

Lynn Hinch, Bilingual Specialist, Office of Public Instruction

Conference Room 1

This session will provide guidance and tools for identifying students as English Language Learners. Once the students are identified, they will participate in the ACCESS for ELLS, an annual assessment of their English language proficiency. The results from the ACCESS assessment will provide useful data for designing instruction and determining when a student is proficient in the academic language needed for success in the classroom and, therefore, eligible to exit the ELL program.

Unlock the Power of Digital Assessment Tools to Revolutionize Your Formative, Summative and Alternative Assessments.

Miles McGeehan, Technology Integration/Curriculum Specialist, Bozeman Public Schools

Conference Room 5

This session will provide a tour of useful digital tools and pedagogical strategies to help enhance formative, summative and alternative assessments in the K-12 classroom. The digital tools represented are available online (free) or native to desktop computers and laptops.

Montana's Hidden Treasures

Colet Bartow, Library-Information Literacy Instructional Coordinator, Office of Public Instruction

Ballroom

This session will give participants experience in using EbscoHost to select informational texts that are appropriately complex. EbscoHost allows searching by Lexile, one of the quantitative measures of text complexity. We will also examine PBS LearningMedia and other free web-based professional development resources that are available to all Montana schools.

Building a Culture of Quality of Data

Sarah Loewen, AIM Unit Manager, Data Resource Administrator, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 1

Everyone whose job affects students has a role in ensuring data quality. Because good data are as much a resource as staff, books, and computers, a wise education system is willing to invest time and money in achieving useful information and respects the effort taken to produce it. This presentation provides take-home ideas that can be used in any district to guide the process of developing a Culture of Quality Data. Information presented is taken from the National Forum on Educational Statistics, Forum Guide to Building a Culture of Quality Data: A School and District Resource.

K-12/Higher Ed Round Table

Jael Prezeau, Content Standards and Instruction Division Administrator, Office of Public Instruction

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, Office of Public Instruction

Laura Straus, Assistant Professor, University of Montana Western

David Erickson, Associate Professor, University of Montana

Kate Brayko, Assistant Professor, University of Montana

Roberta Evans, Dean, Phyllis J. Washington School of Education and Human Sciences, University of Montana

Skybridge Room 2

The Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) and membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium afford continued opportunities for collaboration between K-12 and institutions of higher education. Join this round table discussion to learn about how OPI and the Montana University System are working together on strategies for the transition to the MCCS, achievement level descriptors (ALDs) for college and career readiness, and the Smarter formative assessment project.

Planning, Instruction and Assessment for Real-World Tasks

John Nielson & Anne Keith, Instructional Coaches, Bozeman Public Schools

Skybridge Room 3

Want to engage your kids in their learning? You will create learning opportunities for any or all content areas using the rigor and relevance framework to plan, scaffold support, integrate, and naturally differentiate your instruction.

RTI: Developing a School Wide Assessment System that Works

Sara Evans, Shepherd Public Schools

Nancy Scow, Data Control Specialist, Office of Public Instruction

Skybridge Room 4

How can a school set up an assessment system that provides valid and reliable data? During this session, participants will learn the fundamental steps to a strong, valid assessment system. Benchmarking, progress monitoring, diagnostic, formative and summative assessments need to complement each other, as well as your system. Participants will have the opportunity to start the development of an assessment calendar and to discuss when to use each type of assessment. Instead of testing more, we will focus on testing "smarter"; which assessments are necessary and which are extra. Data from the state RTI Project schools will be presented to help participants understand the importance of valid and reliable data. In closing, the session will present ideas to help increase the fidelity within any assessment system.

Conference Director

Judy Snow

Conference Manager

Ashley Makowski

Registration

Sheri Harlow

IT Support

Yvonne Field

OPI Measurement & Accountability Staff

Thank you for joining us! Please travel safely!